



**STATE OF VERMONT**  
**Department of Education**  
**120 State Street**  
**Montpelier, VT 05620-2501**

## **State Board Recognizes Martha Heath for Contribution to Education**

ESSEX – The Vermont State Board of Education recognized this year’s recipient of the Martha H. O’Connor Award during its monthly meeting Monday at the Inn at Essex.

Martha Heath of Westford, Chair of the Westford School Board and state legislator, was recognized for her continued contributions to Vermont education and students by State Board members in a lunchtime ceremony.

Heath, who currently chairs the House Appropriations Committee in the Vermont Legislature, was considered an exceptional candidate because of her dedication to the education of students in Westford and the significant impact she has made on the statewide educational experience of Vermont students.

Heath has served as a member of the Westford School Board for 25 years. She led and supported critical improvements at the school, leading to the school providing Art instruction, the development of a technology infrastructure, and a breakfast and lunch program. She supported the school’s movement to a standards-based teaching and learning environment, ensuring that the school offers teachers targeted professional development that fosters student learning. She also worked in support of Westford’s first recreation department, and the improvement of school infrastructure such as classrooms, library and gym. She has served on the supervisory union board, overseeing educational improvement for the larger community. As a state legislator, she worked on the Legislative Oversight Committee on Restructuring Education in 1997 which led to the Act 60 school funding law.

“She possesses the grace, balance and good humor that allows her to listen to and balance the needs of her constituents,” said Westford School Principal David Wells, who nominated her. “Martha is often drawn to causes that bring a lot of hard work but yield many benefits for Vermont’s children and communities.”

Established in recognition of a former State Board of Education member’s extraordinary contributions and dedication to Vermont’s school children, the Martha H. O’Connor Award is given annually to a private citizen or citizens who celebrate the achievements of others, do not claim credit for themselves, remain resolute in difficult times, demonstrate leadership, grace, and humor, and who always make children a priority.

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